

BOOK REVIEWS

SEXUALITY AND AGGRESSION IN MATURATION. NEW FACETS. Edited by H. Sydney Klein. (Pp. 72. 10s.). London: Baillière, Tindall & Cassell, 1970.

This booklet contains the 1969 Winter Lectures delivered under the auspices of the British Psycho-analytical Society. For those in tune with the psychoanalytic approach they will provide a useful guide to its application to three important areas of general interest. The lectures include one dealing with permissive upbringing and not surprisingly point to the dangers of children being exposed to information beyond their comprehension. A plea is made for greater understanding of young motor cyclists, particularly those who use their machines in a neurotic fashion. The lecture from which the title of the booklet is derived, is a comprehensive discourse on the problem of the identity of 'self' in which psychoanalytical, ethological and existentialist view points are put forward to explain the origins of the forces at work in the process of growing up.

For others who are uncommitted to the conceptual models implicit in these lectures, they will in the reviewer's opinion, provide an interesting account of how the other half look at some difficult and pressing problems
J.G.G.

AIDS TO POSTGRADUATE MEDICINE. By J. L. Burton (Pp. 136. 20s.). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970.

THIS book is intended to provide an aid to revision for candidates taking the Membership examination of the various Royal Colleges of Physicians. A short section entitled "Hints on the Clinical Examination" is followed by skeleton lists of information subdivided into the various specialities such as Chest Disease, Dermatology and Microbiology, and illustrated in a few instances by diagrams or line drawings. There is a short bibliography but no index. The layout of the book is good and the classified lists are logical and comprehensive, although in some cases of doubtful accuracy (for example, azotaemic osteodystrophy is listed as a cause of osteoporosis, and typhoid fever as a cause of sinus bradycardia, and the Graham-Steell murmur is said to be due to mitral stenosis mimicking pulmonary regurgitation). Abbreviations and initials are often used without explanation, and the frequent occurrence of "etc". in the lists is irritating and uninformative.

Despite these shortcomings this little boook should prove very useful to candidates attempting to classify and memorize the large numbers of facts required for examination purposes.
L.E.M.

AN INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL GENETICS. By J. A. Fraser Roberts. Fifth Edition. (Pp xiv+296; figs. 126. Boards 50s; paper 35s). London: Oxford University Press, 1970.

THERE was a long interval between the first and second edition of this most valuable book, but later editions have reflected the increasing speed of advances in genetics and the book itself continues to make genetics understandable to those who have no formal training and whose interest is essentially in the medical aspects of genetics. This understanding is not easily attained, but we doubt if any other book will prove as interesting and instructive, both to the older physician who has learnt little of genetics in the past and to the present day student trained in biology and perhaps well informed on plant and animal genetics.

J.E.M.